



# DAVID IRONS

**WINTER 2003**

[www.metrokc.gov/council](http://www.metrokc.gov/council)

**David Irons**

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**Dear Community Members,**

Seasons Greetings! As 2002 draws to a close, I have reason to be thankful for many things. Despite funding shortages, King County has been able to maintain operations and institute new ways of doing business. This has been a challenge, but an exhilarating one as we improve operating efficiencies and attempt to do more with less.

King County's Capital Improvement Program for 2003 includes investment of more than \$63 million in District 12 projects. Even in an austere financial year, we still have dedicated funding sources that allow us to make some improvements to infrastructure such as roads, solid waste disposal, surface water management and transit. The 2003 budget includes money for:

- Issaquah-Fall City Road widening
- North SPAR (South Plateau Access Road)
- Issaquah Highlands park-and-ride
- Taylor Creek environmental restoration
- Elliott Bridge replacement
- Preston Bridge replacement
- Cedar River Legacy project
- May Creek Basin Plan



We've done the review, the discussions and the planning, and now we are ready to build the infrastructure that is necessary to serve the people who live here now.

I've also made it a priority this year to meet with constituents in District 12, hosting open houses in each of the five cities, as well as two budget forums this fall. I meet regularly with District 12's mayors, environmental and business leaders, and unincorporated area councils to coordinate King County's efforts with local interests.

I look forward to hearing from you about your concerns so that I can better represent you on the Metropolitan King County Council. Inside, you will find a questionnaire that provides an easy way to make sure your concerns are considered. Please take a moment to fill out the questionnaire and return it. I maintain an open-door policy in my office, and I encourage you to contact me at any time if I can be of service to you.

**Sincerely,**

**David Irons**

**King County Councilmember . District 12**

**King County Council  
Committee Work**

Vice Chair of Natural Resources,  
Parks and Open Spaces

Growth Management & Unincorporated Areas

Transportation

Regional Transit

Regional Water Quality

**Regional Committee  
Memberships**

Board of Health

Cedar River Council, co-chair

Central Puget Sound Economic  
Development District

Eastside Transportation Partnership

Growth Management Planning  
Council

Puget Sound Regional Council's  
Growth Management Policy Board

# Budget for 2003

In November, the Metropolitan King County Council approved a \$3.1 billion budget for 2003, including a general operating budget of \$492 million. That budget is lower than the \$497 million appropriated in 2002, and represents a reduction of approximately \$52 million in expenses. I voted for the budget, which was approved by a vote of 12-1.

This year's budget process set a new mark for cooperation. We broke out of the old mold for crafting budgets and worked together in a collaborative, bi-partisan fashion to put together a workable budget during a period of fiscal austerity. We found more money for human services and crime prevention programs by cutting back funding for jails to 2002 levels, because expenses have been lower than anticipated with a dwindling incarcerated population. Executive Ron Sims' budget proposal had increased jail funding while cutting human services money.

We found money to continue funding essential human services while retaining full funding for the Sheriff's Office. We are protecting public safety and funding required expenses such as the Green River killer investigation, while also stretching out a minimal safety net to those in need. Our current economic recession is not a good time to abandon the less-fortunate members of our community.

The Council focused on redistributing leftovers – the ending-fund balances that didn't get spent in some departments. New allocations for 2003 were reduced to reflect actual spending needs, using a more realistic budget picture. For instance, money leftover in Metro's budget was reallocated as 31,000 additional hours of service for 2003. In addition, countywide staffing was cut by 314 full-time equivalent positions, representing a reduction of 2 percent in employment. The County has overbudgeted in the past, and now we are reducing allocations to a more realistic level. We are taking the first steps toward better identifying actual budget needs and prioritizing them.

Despite the budget cuts necessitated by declining revenue due to the recession and contractual obligations, nearly \$64 million in capital appropriations and on-going funds will benefit projects in District 12. Our Eastside and Southeast communities continue to be among the fastest growing areas in the county. These projects all address the environmental preservation and infrastructure improve-

## Summary of District 12 Capital Improvement Projects for 2003:

### Road improvement funds will go toward:

- Widening Issaquah-Fall City Road to five lanes between Southeast 48<sup>th</sup> Street and Klahanie Drive, \$1,169,000.
- Replacement of 67-year-old Preston Bridge, \$1,994,000
- Replacement and realignment of the Elliott Bridge over the Cedar River, \$9,195,000.
- Completion of the North SPAR (South Plateau Access Road) connecting Issaquah Highlands with the intersection of Issaquah-Fall City Road and Issaquah-Pine Lake Road, \$1,994,000

### Transit improvement funds will go toward:

- Construction of the 1,000-stall Issaquah Highlands park-and-ride facility, \$22,380,958.

### Environmental improvement funds will go toward:

- May Creek Basin Action Plan for dredging, flood control and habitat improvements, \$440,000.
- Cedar River Legacy to acquire and restore riparian zones along the Cedar River for salmon habitat enhancement, \$960,500.
- Taylor Creek final phase of restoration, \$786,000.

### Parks improvement funds will go toward:

- Acquisition of the Mitchell Hill Connector property, \$500,000.
- East Lake Sammamish Trail interim use development, \$1,165,774.
- Additional projects include Cedar Hills Landfill improvements and facility upgrades at the Maple Hills police precinct.

### Total investment in District 12 is \$63,973,120.

The 2003 budget package is posted on the internet at [www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/budget](http://www.metrokc.gov/mkcc/budget).

ments that are essential to meet the backlog of needs in our communities. This is a big step toward providing the facilities and services for the people who have chosen to make their homes here.

These projects are not funded by the general operating fund. Instead, the money comes from capital funds and other dedicated sources of revenue such as Conservation Futures that cannot be used for operating expenses.

## Restructuring Parks

This year, King County restructured its parks and recreation department and programs in response to the large county budget shortfalls. I worked with county staff and various cities in the District to determine what parks could be transferred to the cities to save money. We have made progress but have more to do in the coming year. So far, the following transfers have been set in motion and should be completed by the end of the year:

### Beaver Lake Park

Beaver Lake Park on the Sammamish Plateau was on the list for closure at the end of this year. Sammamish plans to keep the park open and catch up with delayed maintenance. King County and the City of Sammamish reached agreement in September on the transfer of Beaver Lake Park and all of its facilities from the county to the city.

### Jenkins Creek Park

Another park on the list for closure was Jenkins Creek Park, located adjacent to Covington. Agreement has been reached to transfer the park to Covington, and the Council will take action on an Interlocal Agreement in December.

### Lake Wilderness Park

Lake Wilderness Park and facilities located in Maple Valley will be transferred to the City of Maple Valley following Council action.

### Lake Sawyer Park

Lake Sawyer Park located in Black Diamond will be transferred to the City of Black Diamond following Council action.

### Mirrormont

Earlier this year, King County acquired an 11-acre parcel of open space in Mirrormont on Tiger Mountain south of the City of Issaquah. The parcel was owned by the Issaquah School District, which no longer plans to build a school on the site. In the coming year, I plan to work with the community and the King County Parks staff to develop a plan for the passive use of the property.

## Transportation Update

### Issaquah Highlands Park-and-Ride

Since April, I have been coordinating with local, regional and federal agencies to increase the size and funding for the Issaquah Highlands Park-and-Ride. This effort to secure funding for a 1,000-stall facility instead of the planned 500 has been largely successful. Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn was able to add \$2.8 million to the U.S. House transportation appropriations bill this fall. In addition, the 2003 King County budget fully funds the expanded park-and-ride facility for the first time. The larger size will help address the growing need for additional park-and-ride capacity along the I-90 corridor east of Bellevue.

### North Link of the South Plateau Access Road (North SPAR)

The mountainous terrain in the Issaquah/Sammamish area limits roads construction, and as a result, few corridors have been constructed for access to local cities. Many of you probably have noticed the construction ongoing at I-90 in Issaquah. King

County is coordinating with the federal government, the State of Washington, the City of Issaquah and Port Blakely Communities to put in place a new road network for the Sammamish Plateau with a direct connection to I-90. At a time when funding for road projects is scarce, King County soon will unveil a project that provides significant congestion relief for our communities. I am proud to say that the entire new SPAR link road will open to traffic in the fall of 2003.



*SPAR under construction, looking south toward site of the future Issaquah Highlands park-and-ride.*

King County is accelerating construction on the North Link of this new corridor to correspond with the opening of the federal Sunset Interchange and the City of Issaquah's South Link. When the North SPAR is completed, it will create almost a mile of new roadway from the northernmost intersection of the new Issaquah Highlands development to the intersection of Issaquah-Pine Lake Road and Issaquah-Fall City Road. The North SPAR will consist of four through lanes with an additional left turn lane. This project will be a vital link to I-90 for Sammamish residents and should reduce traffic congestion significantly on Front Street and East Lake Sammamish Parkway in Issaquah.

# County Governance

Our current fiscal crisis together with the lack of trust for government shown by the voters has resulted in major efforts to rethink our role as a county government and to review the level and type of services we should provide to our residents. Efforts are underway to address these questions in the next couple of years.

In July, Councilmember Kent Pullen and I introduced a proposal to save money in the King County budget by reducing the number of Councilmembers to nine from the current 13 members. This would require voter approval of an amendment to the King County Charter, the county's constitution. Our proposal stimulated much discussion, and as a result, another proposal was put forward addressing this and other aspects of county governance.

In September, I joined several other Councilmembers to introduce Ordinance 2002-0436, which calls for the formation of a Commission on Governance charged with studying and assessing the current structure of King County government and making recommendations to the Executive and the Council, including:

- Examining the current expense (general) fund.
- Reviewing the need to make changes to the current expense fund revenue structure.
- Exploring the need for a dedicated revenue source for the criminal justice system, including funding for human services programs that reduce recidivism.
- Modifying or repealing existing employment policies.
- Determining if elected county officials should be partisan or non-partisan.
- Determining if county officials should be elected or appointed.

## Van Donation

Councilmember David Irons turned over the keys to a retired King County van on Nov. 1 to the Black Diamond Community Center. The van is a surplus vehicle from the Metro vanpool, and the Community Center plans to use the van for its youth and senior citizen programs. From left are Helen Bittner, David Irons, Black Diamond Mayor Howard Botts, Leslie Johnson, and Judith Black.



- Changing the size and structure of King County government, including all elective county offices.
- Changing the size and structure of the King County Council, including the number of councilmembers, staffing and salaries.

The Council adopted the ordinance to establish the Governance Commission on Nov. 25, 2002. The selection team will review a list of names in an effort to make sure that the Commission is appointed by Dec. 6, 2002. The Commission is charged with submitting progress reports to the Council at the end of each calendar quarter, beginning on March 31, 2003. As the Commission completes each of the assigned tasks outlined in the legislation, any recommendations and related work projects are to be included in the quarterly report. The final report with a needs assessment and recommendation for action is due to the Metropolitan King County Council by March 31, 2004.

The legislation expressly notes that the meetings of the Commission are open to the public and that the Commission will conduct two public meetings. I recommend that those interested in tracking and/or commenting on this legislation either call my office or use a new web link from the King County website for accessing legislation pending or adopted by the Council, known as Legisearch, and accessed at:

<http://mkcclegisearch.metrokc.gov/legistarweb/default.asp>

*(Once at the on-line Legislation site, scroll down to the button called Legisearch. When the screen pops up, enter the word "governance" and when the list of legislation opens, select 2002-0436. If you need assistance, call my office at 206-296-1012).*

## May Creek Basin Plan Implementation

With the adoption of the 2003 Budget and Capital Improvement Program, once again funding is in place to implement projects identified in the May Creek Basin Action Plan. This coming year the Department of Natural Resources & Parks plans to complete May Creek projects totaling \$440,000. One is a flood control project for the portion of the Basin known as May Valley. Two other projects, carried over from the 2002 list, are located in the lower canyon. These projects focus on habitat restoration and installation of large woody debris and erosion control. Technical assistance is available to work on these and other potential projects identified in the Basin Plan.



# District 12 Citizens' Comments on King County Issues

**Please fill out, detach and place in mail. No postage necessary.**

**List the three issues of greatest concern to you in our community:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Transportation Improvements:**

With the failure of Referendum 51 in the November election, we will need to seek other ways to reduce traffic congestion and improve transportation in the Puget Sound region. My efforts in 2003 will focus on the Regional Transportation Investment District in my role as an alternate on the executive board. RTID is compiling a regional transportation plan to benefit the residents of King, Snohomish and Pierce counties. Please help decide how our efforts should be directed by ranking your transportation priorities below, with 1 being the most important to you.

- \_\_\_ Add capacity to existing roads
- \_\_\_ Build new roads
- \_\_\_ Expand and add park-and-ride lots
- \_\_\_ Add bus service
- \_\_\_ Other

Would you support raising the gas tax by up to 6 cents per gallon to pay for the completion of road construction projects?

- ☐ YES      ☐ NO      ☐ Depends on project list

Would you support raising the sales tax by up to ½ a cent to pay for the completion of road construction projects?

- ☐ YES      ☐ NO      ☐ Depends on project list

Would you support tolling to pay for the added capacity on existing freeways?

- ☐ YES      ☐ NO      ☐ MAYBE

**Thank you for participating in this survey. Please add your comments below:**

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## Stay Informed

### UACs

I would like to thank the many dedicated volunteers who serve on the two Unincorporated Area Councils in District 12. If you live in an unincorporated area and would like to get involved with providing advice and recommendations to the Metropolitan King County Council, please attend your local UAC meeting:

- Four Creeks UAC, meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the East Renton Community Church. Contact Chair Oscar Bandelin at [bandelin@nwlinc.com](mailto:bandelin@nwlinc.com).
- Greater Maple Valley UAC, meets at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month at King County Police Precinct #3 in Maple Valley. Contact Chair Dick Bonewits at [richb2@msn.com](mailto:richb2@msn.com).

### Council and Committee Meeting Schedule:

- Metropolitan King County Council – 1:30 p.m. every Monday
- Committee-of-the-Whole – 9:30 a.m. every Monday
- Growth Management & Unincorporated Areas Committee – 9:30 a.m. first and third Tuesdays
- Natural Resources, Parks & Open Space Committee – 1:30 p.m. first and third Thursdays
- Transportation Committee – 1 p.m. second and fourth Wednesdays

**All meetings are cablecast live on Civic Television, CTV Channel 22, or watch live and archived streaming video at [www.metrokc.gov/ctv](http://www.metrokc.gov/ctv)**

Please fold in thirds with the below panel showing, tape closed, and drop in the mail. **No** postage necessary.



**Councilmember David Irons**  
KING COUNTY COURTHOUSE RM 1200  
516 3RD AVE  
SEATTLE WA 98104-9872

## Historic Preservation

### Fall City Historic Designation

Part of the town of Fall City, one of King County's two unincorporated townships, was designated in September as a Community Landmark. The designation will allow the establishment of guidelines for preserving the historic character of the central residential area adjacent to the business district, which was settled originally in the 1800s. In response to expressions of concern from community members, I worked with staff and residents to enable the preservation of the historic buildings while also respecting the wishes of private property owners. The Community Landmark designation allows individual property owners to voluntarily pursue designation as a King County Landmark.

✂ Cut out survey and fold with mailing panel on reverse showing ✂



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# Recognitions



*David Irons with Dr. Shinn and 11-year-old Alfonso Figuero*

## **Recognizing the positive in our community**

I was privileged to be able to recognize three very deserving individuals in recent months with formal presentations before the Metropolitan King County Council. Dr. Sherwin Shinn, an Issaquah dentist, received recognition for his humanitarian work providing free dental care to children in third-world countries through his International Smile Power Foundation. With the help of Sammamish school children who mounted a letter-writing campaign for donations, Dr. Shinn brought 11-year-old Alfonso Figuero here from Bolivia for life-saving surgery after he had been crippled by tuberculosis.

In addition, I was delighted for the opportunity to give public thanks to husband-wife team Terry Seaman and Heidi Seidelhuber of Maple Valley for their 20 years of civic volunteer work. They recently retired from leading the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council, and they invested all of their resources into beautifully restoring the crushed Pioneer Square Pergola through their Seattle business, Seidelhuber Iron.

*Councilmember David Irons (right) was joined by Council Chair Cynthia Sullivan and City of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels (left and center left) for the recognition of Terry Seaman and Heidi Seidelhuber.*

## **Medic One Award and CPR training**

The King County Medic One Distinguished Citizen Award was presented to me on Oct. 23, 2002, to recognize a “life-saving

act of compassion by performing CPR on Sept. 21, 2002.” I was participating in a public meeting on transportation in Kent when a citizen collapsed after testifying. Staff checked the man and determined he was not breathing and his heart had stopped. Metro supervisor Jim Jacobson joined me in performing CPR until medics arrived. Although my CPR training was 20 years old, this incident proved dramatically to me how important it is to know these basic lifesaving skills. I am happy to report our efforts were rewarded; the man is alive today.

I urge everyone who hasn't taken a CPR or first-aid training course yet to do so, or if it's been awhile since your training, take a refresher course. You can sign up by contacting your local fire department. For more information about CPR training, visit King County's web site at [www.metrokc.gov/health/ems/cpredu.htm](http://www.metrokc.gov/health/ems/cpredu.htm), or call (206) 296-4600.





## David Irons

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### Information for our community:

- Message from Councilmember Irons
- King County Budget
- Transportation Update
- Contribute your comments

## Get involved with King County government

It's as easy as 1-2-3-4.

### 1. District 12 Contacts:

David Irons, Councilmember - (206) 296-1012,

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Grace Reamer, Legislative Aide - (206) 296-1012,

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### 2. Web Page:

[www.metrokc.gov/iron](http://www.metrokc.gov/iron)

### 3. Legislation on line:

[mkcclegisearch.metrokc.gov](http://mkcclegisearch.metrokc.gov)

### 4. Civic Television (CTV Channel 22):

[www.metrokc.gov/ctv](http://www.metrokc.gov/ctv)

### E-mail updates

If you would like to receive regular e-mail updates about upcoming legislation and King County activities in District 12, please call or write to me at (206) 296-1012, or [david.iron@metrokc.gov](mailto:david.iron@metrokc.gov).

### Watch King County online

Civic Television (CTV) is your window onto King County government, for live and taped coverage of Metropolitan King County Council meetings, County Executive news briefings, community meetings, and other programming on county issues. [www.metrokc.gov/ctv](http://www.metrokc.gov/ctv)